1275

COMIC SHOP NEWS™

GRIMM FAIRY TALES: ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Alice Doesn't Live Here Any More

Young Alice is perfectly happy with her perfectly ordinary childhood in a perfectly ordinary world. However, this young girl is destined for most *extraordinary* experiences as she ventures into a world stranger than she ever imagined...

Alice in Wonderland, a new Zenescope series from *Raven Gregory, Ralph Tedesco, Joe Brusha, Robert Gill, & Jason Embury,* takes readers back to the world IDW previously in ***Return to Wonderland*** and expanded on in ***Beyond Wonderland*** and ***Escape from Wonderland.*** While these series focused on Alice Liddle's granddaughter Calie, however, ***Alice in Wonderland*** shines its spotlight on Alice Liddle, revealing her as-yet-untold story. Does ***Alice*** rely more on the first two Zenescope ***Wonderland*** series, or is it more deeply rooted in *Lewis Carroll's* ***Alice in Wonderland?*** "There's a bit of both," *Raven Gregory* said. "Most of ***Return to Wonderland,*** the first series in the trilogy, drew heavy from the original source material but with our added Zenescope twist to it. whereas this series draws more from the mythology we've created within the confines of our Wonderland universe. There are still a lot of elements from the source—but at the same time this is Alice like you've *never* seen her before!"

Gregory had planned on eventually exploring Alice's Wonderland adventures, but didn't want to rush into things. "We'd been talking about doing the ***Alice*** story for quite some time, but we all agreed we'd only do it if we had a really good story to tell," Gregory said. "After the "Wonderland" trilogy turned out so well, the last thing we wanted to do was to run this thing into the ground. We decided the only way to do it was to wait for the right story to come along—one that would be able to stand on its own merits yet also play into this massive mythology we've developed over the last five years.

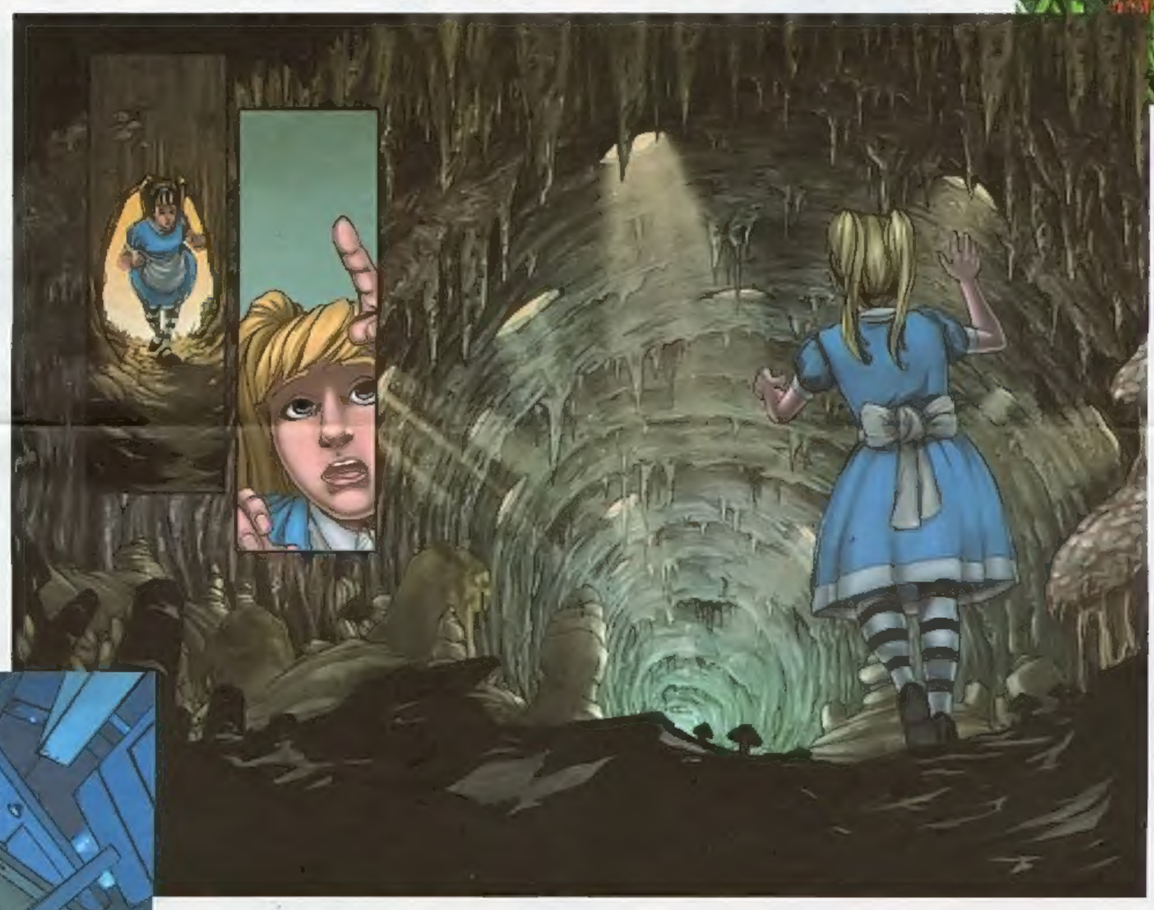
"We've also had some time since ***Escape From Wonderland*** came out, and eventually our conversations began turning more and more toward Wonderland. We—*Joe Brusha, Ralph Tedesco,* and I—started chatting it up, and the next thing you know, we found a story we all think new readers and long time fans of the series will really enjoy."

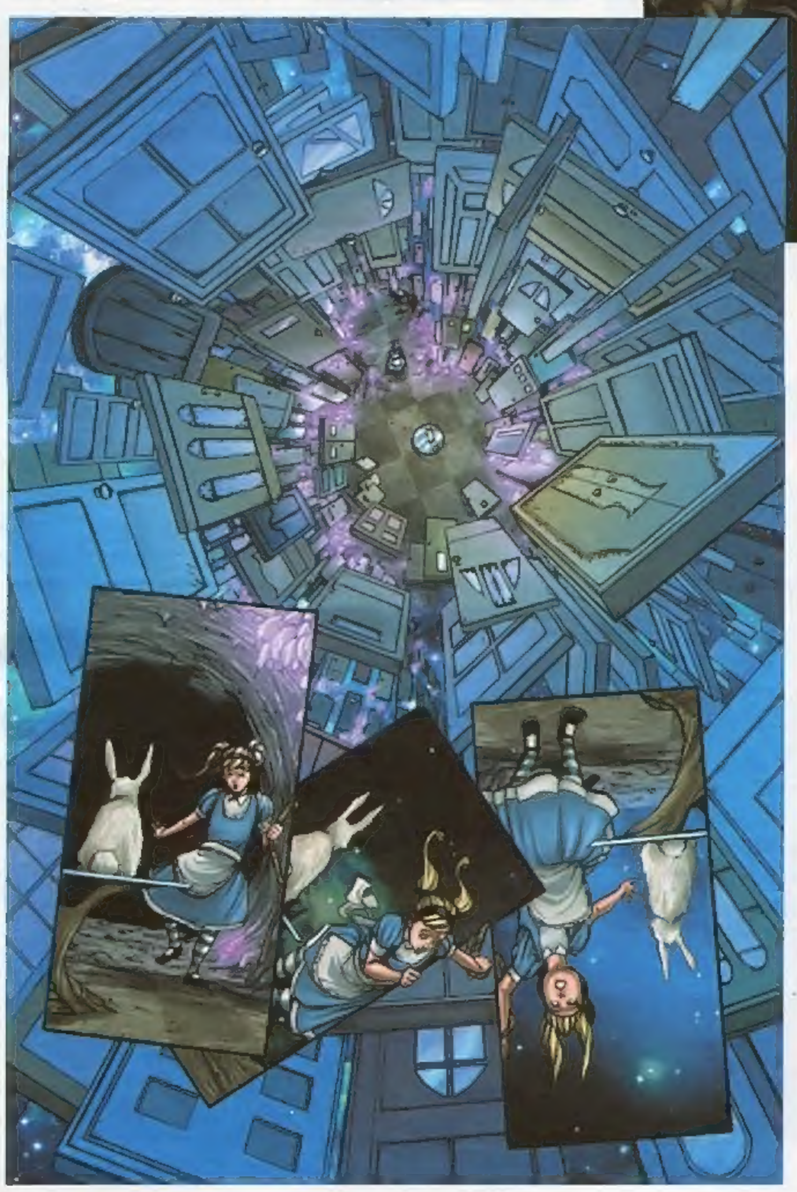
How did they decide what did and didn't make the cut? "There just so much cool stuff to pull from that it's hard to separate what to leave in and what to leave out," Gregory said. "Part of you wants to throw in everything and the kitchen sink— but there's only so much you can do before the story starts becoming cluttered and disjointed so the most important thing is that all these cool elements all play toward driving the story forward. If it doesn't, it's *out*... if it doesn't bring the characters to life and add to the character arc, then it's gone.

"We'll be seeing characters in a new light, as this story takes place long before Calie set foot in Wonderland. We're also exploring situations only briefly glimpsed in the ***Return to Wonderland*** series—things like the Carpenter and the Walrus, the tea party, and the croquet game are going to give creepy a whole new name."

From the very beginning of Zenescope's ***Alice in Wonderland,*** it seems like Alice's adventure into Wonderland is far from accidental—it's as if she's *destined* to make this journey. Is this the case—and if so, why? "Without spoiling the story, you fast get the sense that *maybe* Alice is too smart for her own good," Gregory explained. "She is, essentially the first person to figure out how to get out of Wonderland, and her doing that sets her up for some major consequences... consequences that bring about the whole trilogy to begin with. So there is a 'specialness' about her that was missing from all of the other beings sacrificed to realm of Wonderland in the past. Beyond that uniqueness, though, you'll see that behind the scenes a grand manipulation is taking place—one intent on removing the Jabberwocky from power for as yet unrevealed diabolical reasons."

While Alice's grandfather appears early on in the story, readers shouldn't expect im to take a prominent role this time around. "Most of his story was touched upon in the ***Tales from Wonderland*** series," Gregory said, "so we won't be addressing





Charles 'Pappy" much at all in this story. This is *all* Alice... *all* Wonderland... *all* madness."

The White Rabbit seems to become Alice's "Yoda" in a way—but in the process, he manages to blur the line between her existence and his own. Will he remain her guide throughout this series? "He's definitely playing a much bigger role in this one than in the previous series. He's one of the first beings to ever enter Wonderland, and he's been serving the Jabberwocky for a very long time. So when Alice comes into the realm, he sees in her something he's never seen before—a means to an end."

Alice is obviously going to have to learn the "rules" of Wonderland right away; how difficult will the transition be? "She'll have a much better handle on it than Calie did in the original ***Return to Wonderland,***" Gregory said. "Keep in mind that Calie was actually in Wonderland for a short time, while Alice essentially grows up there."

Who's her adversary in Wonderland, and what is her goal as the series progresses? " The Mad Hatter, The Queen of Hearts, Cheshire, and of course the big bad of the story, The Jabberwocky—they're all Alice's adversaries. As is Wonderland in general since—unlike Calie—she really has no one looking out for her in this realm. So more so than anything, Alice wants to escape Wonderland—but in order to do that, she is going to have to travel to some very dark places in a world where nothing makes sense and madness is only one step away."

Within the first eight pages, Gregory makes it clear that this is one of the most surreal takes on Wonderland—one that is almost psychedelic in tone. Just how much trouble is it to come up with a Wonderland that is so different from our reality? "I can't even tell you where half this stuff comes from! I have a lot of the crazy weird floating around in my head at any given point in the day, so mostly it's sifting through that stuff and finding what works and what doesn't and putting it in the story," Gregory said. "With this story, I'm really trying to stretch the boundaries of what people expect to see in a comic. We have a scene where the panels tilt and the characters react to the actual panel tilting so there are some crazy surreal visuals that artist *Robert Gill* and colorist *Jason Embury* are really helping to bring to life in some amazing ways.

"I was talking to *J. Scott Campbell* the other day about how part of what makes Wonderland Wonderland is that it doesn't have to make sense! Part of the appeal is the insanity of it all, and that if you're not taking advantage of that aspect, you're really doing a disservice to the story. So, with this series we're stepping outside of the box and trying new visuals and storytelling techniques I've never seen done before in a comic that I think is really going to blow people away."

Will ***Alice in Wonderland*** be accessible to readers who aren't familiar with the earlier Zenescope ***Wonderland*** tales? "I'm hoping so!" Gregory said. "I'm trying to keep in mind that, when someone picks this up, it might be the first comic they've ever read. At the same time, we're also staying true to the essence of the series of what has been laid out before. Longtime fans are going flip for some of the stuff in this series, but it is very much handled in a way that newcomers won't be lost at all."

Grimm Fairy Tales: Alice in Wonderland #1, a $2.99 comic featuring covers by *Artgerm, Ebas,* and *Neil Ruffino,* is scheduled for mid-December release.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

New 52 Month 2 = DC #1!

Back in *CSN #1271,* we told you about the unprecedented success of DC's New 52, which led the publisher to first place in both total books sold (unit market share) and in dollar value of sales (retail market share). And now we can report that DC duplicated that market domination in October—and in fact they extended their level of market victory, taking control of an unprecedented 50.97% of the unit market share (which means that over half of all new comics sold by Diamond in October were published by DC) and 42.47% in retail market share, helping to make October 2011 the best month in almost five years in terms of total comics sold.

In terms of individual book sales, DC published 17 of the Top 20 sellers for October:

1 - ***Justice League #2***
2 - ***Batman #2***
3 - ***Action Comics #2***
4 - ***Green Lantern #2***
5 - ***Flash #2***
6 - ***Detective Comics #2***
7 - ***Incredible Hulk #1***
8 - ***Wolverine & X-Men #1***
9 - ***Fear Itself #7***
10 - ***Superman #2***
11 - ***Batman: The Dark Knight #2***
12 - ***Batman & Robin #2***
13 - ***Wonder Woman #2***
14 - ***Batgirl #2***
15 - ***Batwoman #2***
16 - ***Teen Titans #2***
17 - ***Green Lantern: New Guardians #2***
18 - ***Aquaman #2***
19 - ***Green Lantern Corps #2***
20 - ***Red Lanterns #2***

Reorders for two of DC's September New 52 first issues (***Aquaman #1*** and ***Green Lantern #1)*** pushed those books into the 88th and 93rd best-selling positions for October, while their second printing of ***Detective Comics #1*** landed at #98 on the Top 100 chart—an amazing performance for a second printing.

DC also published the best-selling graphic novel in October (***Flashpoint HC***). And while they didn't manufacture the best-selling game, that game—***DC Heroclix: Superman***—*is* based on DC characters.

Romancing the Comic

Followers of the *Steve Saffel*-edited ***Simon and Kirby Library*** series (which includes the ***Best of Simon and Kirby*** introductory volume as well as ***Superheroes*** and ***Crime*** volumes) might be surprised to see that the upcoming ***Young Romance: The Best of Simon & Kirby's Romance Comics*** is published by Fantagraphics rather than Titan

Books—and that it features art restoration by *Michael Gagne,* not *Harry Mendryk.* Gagne explained how the project came about.

"After buying a restoration book from *Chris Fama* (Famac) almost ten years ago, I got the bug to do my own restoration project," Gagne wrote. "I wanted public domain material of something that had not been reprinted and something I consider of great importance to the field. I've always been intrigued by the Simon & Kirby romance comics and found that there was very little that had been reprinted—and virtually none of it in color. Also, no book had truly analyzed the evolution of the S&K romance books from 1947 to 1959, so I set this up as my project. In 2003, I created a folder in my computer called, 'The Simon and Kirby Romance Project.'

"For months, I hunted the original comics so that I could scan the material at high resolution. Finding the key issues was quite a difficult task. In 2005, my search led me to comics collector, Bud Plant, who graciously gave me a loan of his beautiful Simon & Kirby romance collection. I scanned a total of 600 pages of material before beginning the editing and restoration process.

"After experimenting with various techniques for several months, I finally developed my own methods. The goal was to preserve 100% of the line art from the comics, and clean everything up so that it looked like each page was scanned from a mint, right off the press comic. If I did my work well, the restoration would be nearly invisible."

"When I selected the stories, I purposely avoided any which had already been presented in *Richard Howell's* book, ***Real Love*** (1998). I also didn't include any of the stories from ***Young Romance #1,*** as that particular comic was reprinted in its entirety by DC comics in 2000. I narrowed down my choice to the stories that I found most appealing... To complete the overview, I included two examples of the Western sub-genre, a nice selection of covers, and never before reprinted post-code stories—including the last romance story Simon and Kirby did as an artistic team.

After producing a small quantity of print-on-demand books for friends and fellow professionals, Gagne offered the book for publication—first to Dark Horse, who passed on it, and then to *Gary Groth* at Fantagraphics.

For Gagne, ***Young Romance*** isn't a project undertaken for profit. "I look at this as a charitable project to the medium I love. At best, my royalties won't even pay back the print on demand copies I gave away, never mind the hundred of hours I spent on the project. This was a labor of love, pure and simple, and a tribute to two industry giants."

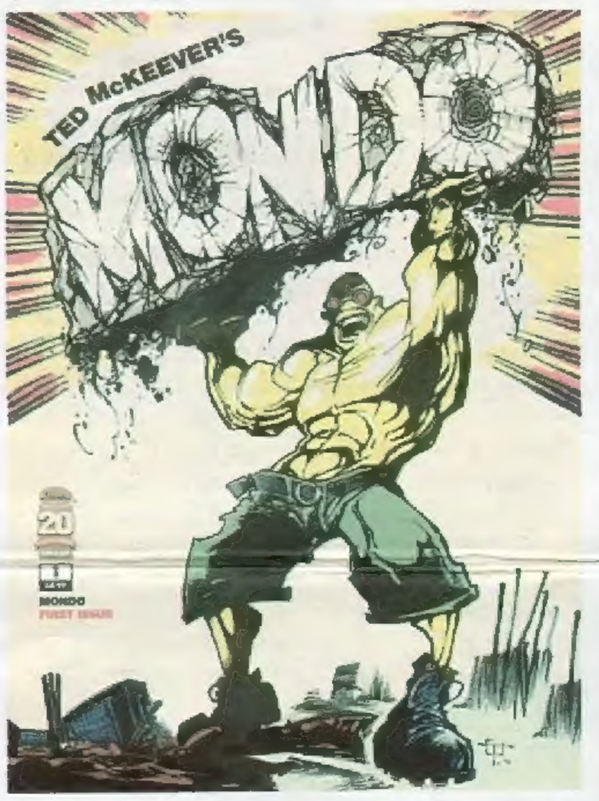
Readers waiting for the Titan Books' ***Simon & Kirby Romance*** volume will have a longer wait; editor *Steve Saffel* said that the book has been taken off the schedule currently, with other ***Simon & Kirby*** volumes pushed forward to take its place. So for the time being, the Fantagraphics volume is the *only* collection of their romance material slated for release.

Young Romance: The Best of Simon & Kirby's Romance Comics, a 200-page hardcover, is scheduled for January 2012 release.

Mondo a Mondo

Ted McKeever has always worked on the razor-fine tip of the cutting edge—and his new Shadowline/Image series ***Mondo*** will remind readers just what an unpredictably offbeat talent McKeever is.

The creator of ***Metropol, Transit, Eddy Current,*** and the recently published ***Meta 4,*** McKeever is a distinctive visual stylist whose bold graphics accent his offbeat, sometimes surreal storytelling. He promises that ***Mondo*** will live up to that storytelling tradition. "I think fans will *easily* be able to tell this is my work," McKeever said. "And I have definitely not held back at all in this one!"



"McKeever kicks it out again with mind-blowing imagery, wild characters, and multi-layered concepts," Shadowline publisher *Jim Valentino* said. "He never disappoints and ***Mondo*** will be counted as one of his best yet."

The series begins with Catfish's daily grind of "enhancing" poultry, which comes to a halt when he is accidentally tripped up by a loose chicken, causing him to fall victim to his own process. What proportions of his that were once human are now beyond anything normal! Add villainous corporate and military big wigs, a roller-skating weapon-

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SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

"THE BIG BOSS" IS ACTUALLY—SERRA CARSON!
JAMESON NEVER SUSPECTED WHO I REALLY WAS!
BUT WHY DID YOU ACT LIKE MY BIGGEST FAN?
IN ORDER TO GAIN YOUR CONFIDENCE—
—SO I COULD DESTROY YOU!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 11-7
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toting chick named Kitten Kaboodle, a gang of tattooed babies, an enormous beach monster... and you have a strange heroic adventure that sounds like a Troma Films nightmare concept.

Mondo #1 is slated for early January release.

IDW Spills True Blood on Regular Basis

After producing several ***True Blood*** miniseries inspired by HBO's vampiric television drama (which is in turn based on *Charlaine Harris's* Sookie Stackhouse novels), IDW is about to give Truebies what they truly crave: regular adventures of Sookie, Bill, Eric, and company.

Beginning in the spring of 2012, IDW will offer an ongoing ***True Blood*** series, featuring new tales every month. "The comics are a great way to continue telling ***True Blood*** stories off screen," show creator *Alan Ball* said. "With this new ongoing series, Truebies will be able to find a new comic in stores every month. We'll also have even more room to create in-depth drama and further explore the world of Bon Temps."

"IDW could not be happier than to move to this next step with our HBO partners," IDW chief operations officer *Greg Goldstein* said. "Since we originally launched ***True Blood*** comics in 2010, fans have been asking for an ongoing series, and we're happy to be able to work with HBO and offer it."

IDW's first two ***True Blood*** limited series, ***True Blood: All Together Now*** and ***True Blood: Tainted Love,*** are available in collected editions; the third series, ***True Blood: The French Quarter,*** is currently offered in comics form, with a collected edition scheduled for March release.

The Irredeemable Force Meets the Incorruptible Object

C'mon... you *knew* that these two were eventually destined to cross paths, and so did creator/writer *Mark Waid*. And he's finally delivering the match-up that readers have been waiting for when the Plutonian takes on Max Damage in ***Irredeemable #32-33*** and ***Incorruptible #25-26.***

"This is the crossover we've been waiting to tell," Boom Studios Founder and Chief Executive Officer *Ross Richie* said. "We get to peer deeper into Max Damage's origins. These two iconic characters have been powerhouse adversaries since the first issue and we are thrilled to add to the mythology of both of these great series."

The Plutonian and Max Damage have always been epic adversaries... but how did they get that way? You're about to find out—and there are some surprises in store!

Back to Press

- ***A Game of Thrones #2 2nd Printing*** (SEP118087), in stores 11/30.
- ***Fear Itself: The Fearless #1 2nd Printing versions A and B*** (SEP118119 and SEP118120), each featuring variant covers by *Marc Silvestri*, in stores 12/14.
- ***Ghostbusters #1 2nd Printing*** (AUG118203), in stores 11/23.
- ***Incredible Hulk #1 2nd Printing*** (SEP118121), featuring a variant cover by *Marc Silvestri*, in stores 12/14.
- ***Wolverine & the X-Men #1 2nd Printing*** (SEP118122), featuring a variant cover by *Chris Bachalo*, in stores 12/14.

CSNsider

- Bad news for fans of Marvel's flagship supervillain: ***Victor Von Doom,*** a miniseries by *Nick Spencer & Becky Cloonan* that was scheduled to begin next week, has been cancelled. On Twitter, Spencer wrote, "I see word about ***Victor Von Doom.*** Trust me, no one is more bummed about this than I am. Really proud of the scripts and hope I get to work with [artist *Becky Cloonan*] sooner rather than later. The series was to have told the story of a teenage Victor Von Doom's efforts to rescue his mother's spirit from Hell.
- Writer *Martin Powell* reports on Facebook that he and artist *Tim Burgard* are working on the graphic novel ***Tarzan at the Earth's Core,*** "to be published in 2012 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of ***Tarzan of the Apes,***" Powell wrote, adding that the project is "officially licensed and authorized by the estate of *Edgar Rice Burroughs.*" Look for more news on the project in upcoming issues of *CSN.*

- Look for a new ***Winter Soldier*** series by *Ed Brubaker & Butch Guice* in February 2012. "The Winter Soldier has emerged as one of

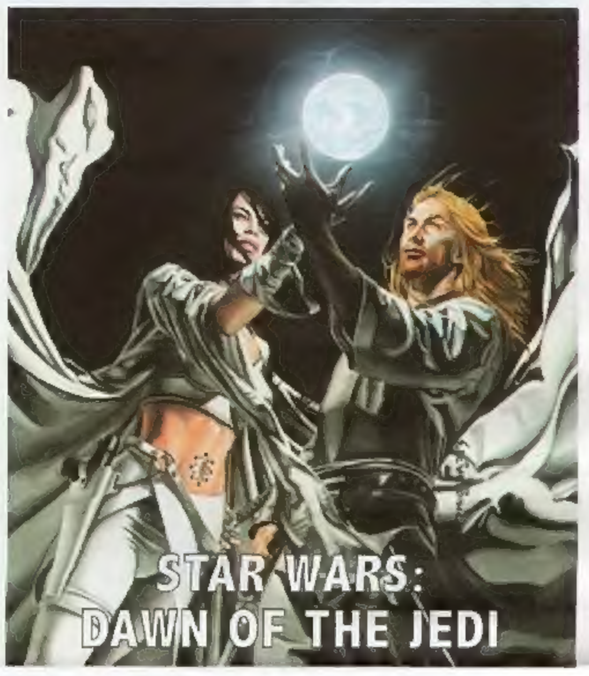
Marvel's most compelling new characters," Marvel editor-in-chief *Axel Alonso* said of the character's resurrection.

- *Michael Avon Oeming* is the new artist for ***Black Panther: The Most Dangerous Man Alive #528,*** replacing *Shawn Martinbrough.*
- Marvel has cancelled the *David Mack* and *Michael Avon Oeming* variant cover editions of *Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley's* ***Brilliant #4;*** the core book itself is still on the schedule and has *not* been cancelled, of course.
- DC has cancelled orders for ***REBELS: Starstruck TP;*** the book will not be resolicited.
- Mars is about to attack again! Fifty years after the debut of the fan-favorite card series ***Mars Attacks!,*** legendary for its gruesome depiction of the Martians' assault on humanity, IDW is launching a new ***Mars Attacks*** comic book series as well as high-quality reprints of existing material.

"We are excited to be partnering with Topps on this classic brand," IDW chief operating officer *Greg Goldstein* said. "***Mars Attacks*** has always been a favorite of the comics creator community, and fans can look forward to top talent bringing their visions to fruition. I know we will definitely bring the comics to the next level."

The *Mars Attacks* card series was created by *Len Brown & Woody Gelman,* after Brown was inspired by the Wally Wood cover to EC Comics' ***Weird Science #16.*** The cards went on to achieve cult status for their then-shocking imagery, fully painted by pulp legend *Norm Saunders,* and remains a staple of pop culture. Topps revived the franchise in the mid 1990s with a second card set, comic book series and toy line. The story was also adapted into the 1996 feature film, ***Mars Attacks!,*** directed by *Tim Burton.*

Look for the first issue of IDW's all-new ***Mars Attacks*** series in the summer of 2012.



- Dark Horse has announced ***Star Wars: Dawn of the Jedi,*** a limited series set 25 millennia before the events of the films. This saga of the origin of the Jedi Order will be produced by *John Ostrander & Jan Duursema.*

NOW, WHEN YOU'RE DEAD, YOU'LL BE BLAMED FOR IT!
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I WANT THE CAMERA TO RECORD YOUR FINAL DEFEAT—
—FOR THE WORLD TO SEE!
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CSN TOP COMI

ACTION COMICS #4

Grant Morrison (W); Rags Morales, Gene Ha, & Rick Bryant (A)
(DC OCT110178 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The people of Metropolis may have been suspicious of this new Superman's origins, powers, and intent, but they're going to be very glad to have him around when the Terminauts make their presence known...

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison continues to lay the groundwork for the New 52 DCU with this story arc set in the earliest days of DC superheroes. *Everything* begins here, making this the most essential of all the New 52 series.

AVENGERS: X-SANCTION #1 (OF 4)

Jeph Loeb (W); Ed McGuinness (A)
(Marvel OCT110606 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

What led to Cable's return? Where has he been since "Second Coming"? And why has he targeted the Avengers for extermination?

Why Should You Care?

Jeph Loeb & Ed McGuinness, the creative superteam responsible for continuity-changing storylines at both Marvel and DC, reunite for a book that promises to change the status quo for the Avengers and the X-Men.

BATMAN INCORPORATED: LEVIATHAN STRIKES #1

Grant Morrison (W); Chris Burnham (A)
(DC OCT110190 $6.99)

What's the Scoop?

Who is Leviathan? That's the question that Batman can't answer, no matter how hard he tries. Is he an old foe with a grudge to settle, a new face of evil... or something completely different?

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison continues his *Batman Incorporated* saga, filling in the gaps between the series' pre-New-52 run and the post-New-52 DCU realities.

CARNAGE USA #1 (OF 5)

Zeb Wells (W); Clayton Crain (A)
(Marvel OCT110632 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

When Cletus Cassaday sets his sights on a small town in the American heartland, it's up to Spider-Man and the Avengers to stop him before mayhem ensues.

Why Should You Care?

When Carnage is involved, it seems that readers just can't get enough mayhem! Who'd have thought a vicious id-driven murderer would be so popular?...

DEFENDERS #1

Matt Fraction (W); Terry Dodson (A)
(Marvel OCT110587 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Doctor Strange... Namor... the Silver Surfer... Red She-Hulk... Iron Fist... The quintessential "non-team" is reborn with a trio of veteran members—and a couple of newbies—as they band together to get to the bottom of a mysterious conspiracy.

Why Should You Care?

Almost four decades ago, Marvel's "non-team" of loners and outcasts premiered; not only are they returning in December, but they've enlisted two more super-talents to join them: writer *Matt Fraction* and superstar artist *Terry Dodson*.

GREEN LANTERN #4

Geoff Johns (W); Christian Alamy (A)
(DC OCT110202 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Sinestro has faced off against some of the mightiest heroes in the DCU—but who thought he'd have to stand against the combined might of the fear-mongering Sinestro Corps?

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns continues to throw readers one surprise twist after another—and that's why *Green Lantern* remains one of the New 52's must-read titles. Sure, we all *know* that Hal Jordan will become Green Lantern soon enough... but the fun is in the journey, even when the destination is known!

INCORRUPTIBLE #25

Mark Waid (W); Marcio Takara (A)
(Boom OCT110918 $3.99)

IRREDEEMABLE #32

Mark Waid (W); Diego Barreto (A)
(Boom OCT110916 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Plutonian has targeted the ultimate obstacle for elimination... and that's very bad news for Max Damage, since *he's* the obstacle in question. Will Max Damage prove himself as the champion the world has been waiting for, or is he destined to fall like so many before him?

Why Should You Care?

Ever since *Mark Waid* introduced his hero-turned-supervillain and his reformed-villain-turned-superhero, readers have demanded that the two meet—and at long last, they're getting what they asked for! The four-parter begins in ***Irredeemable #32,*** continues into ***Incorruptible #25,*** then wraps up in next month's ***Irredeemable*** #33 and ***Incorruptible #26.***

WHA--? WHAT'S THIS UNDER IT?
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE—
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CS: DECEMBER

JUSTICE LEAGUE #4

Geoff Johns (W); Jim Lee (A)
(DC OCT110159 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

One by one, the DCU's ultimate super-team comes together. This issue sees Cyborg join the superheroic ranks—just in time to face off against the might of Apokolips!

Why Should You Care?

DC's greatest creative team—*Geoff Johns* and *Jim Lee*—chronicling the exploits of DC's greatest super-team in a tale that lays the groundwork for the New 52 DCU—who can resist?!

LORD OF THE JUNGLE #1

Arvid Nelson (W); Roberto Castro (A)
(Dynamite OCT110967 $1.00)

What's the Scoop?

At the end of the 19th Century, a British lord and his pregnant wife struggle to survive on a remote African coast. Their story is about to end... but the story of their son is just beginning in this retelling of ***Tarzan of the Apes.***

Why Should You Care?

Edgar Rice Burroughs' classic jungle adventure-fantasy is presented in all its unbowdlerized glory—no contemporary reinterpretations, no young adult angst, no modern political undertones. And it's about time!...

MAGIC THE GATHERING #1

Matt Forbeck (W); Martin Coccolo (A)
(IDW OCT110356 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The greatest thief in the Multiverse embarks on a quest to bring justice to those who destroyed his town—and he's got all sorts of mad magical skills on his side!

Why Should You Care?

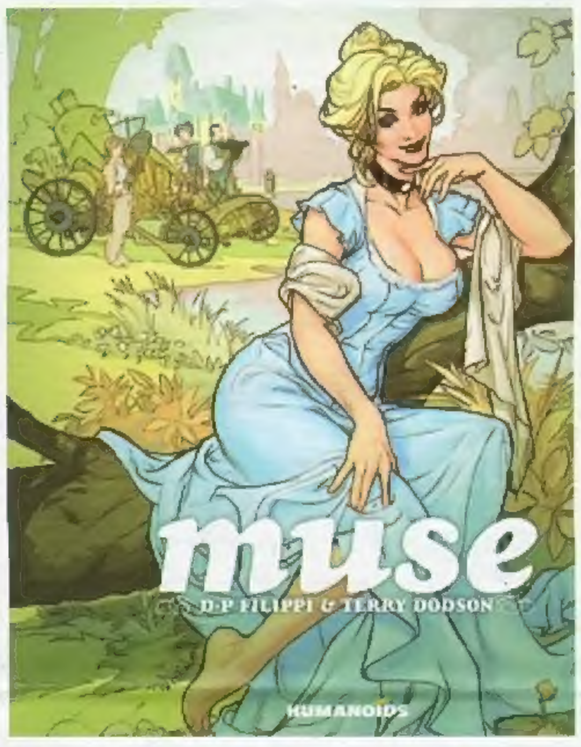
Considering the success of IDW's ***Dungeons & Dragons*** comic, there are lots of gameplayers looking for well-crafted fantasy stories—but even those who don't normally read comics might have trouble resisting an exclusive variant-art ***Magic the Gathering*** card packaged with every copy of the comic!

MUSE HC

Denis Pierre Filippi (W); Terry Dodson (A)
(Humanoids OCT111138 $29.95)

What's the Scoop?

Follow the dreamy, sensual adventures of Coraline, a beautiful young lady who serves as governess to wealthy and mysterious homeowners.



Why Should You Care?

An entire graphic novel filled with *Terry Dodson* illustrations of a beautiful woman? Who *needs* any other reason?

OUTCAST #1

Michael Alan Nelson (W); Matteo Scalera (A)
(Boom OCT110899 $1.00)

What's the Scoop?

Valen Brand was a just king and a valiant warrior... unfortunately, he died at the hands of necromancer who has resurrected im as a soulless member of the walking dead. Rejected even by his one-time subjects, he embarks on a quest to restore his lost soul.

Why Should You Care?

Conan meets ***Game of Thrones*** meets ***Walking Dead?*** Talk about your high-concept project! And you only have to invest a buck to sample the first issue!

RAY #1 (OF 4)

Justin Gray & Jimmy Palmiotti (w); Jamal Igle & Rich Perrotta (A)
(DC OCT110227 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Lucien Gates' life is changed forever when he is struck by a mysterious energy beam that turns him into a human ray of light with incredible powers.

Why Should You Care?

Justin Gray, Jimmy Palmiotti, & Jamal Igle reinvent another classic DC hero in the latest DCnU miniseries. Looks like the New 52 was just the beginning!...

STAR WARS: AGENT OF THE EMPIRE—IRON ECLIPSE #1 (OF 5)

John Ostrander (W); Stephane Roux (A)
(Dark Horse OCT110032 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

Long before the universe had heard of James Bond, there was secret agent Jahan Cross—and he has the weight of the Empire behind him. Follow him as he sets out on the rail of stolen droid technology in the affluent Corporate Sector.

Why Should You Care?

Dark Horse adds another dimension to the ***Star Wars*** universe with this fast-paced series that blends science fiction, espionage, intrigue, and adventure. (Just imagine what the *John Barry-John Williams* collaborative score would sound like!)

SWAMP THING #4

Scott Snyder (W); Victor Ibanez (A)
(DC OCT110211 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The war between the Green and The Other has begun... but without Alec Holland, the Green Has no champion strong enough to fight back!

Why Should You Care?

Scott Snyder proves that sophisticated horror has a home in the New 52 DCU. ***Swamp Thing*** hasn't been this addictive since the *Alan Moore* era!

TRANSFORMERS: DEATH OF OPTIMUS PRIME

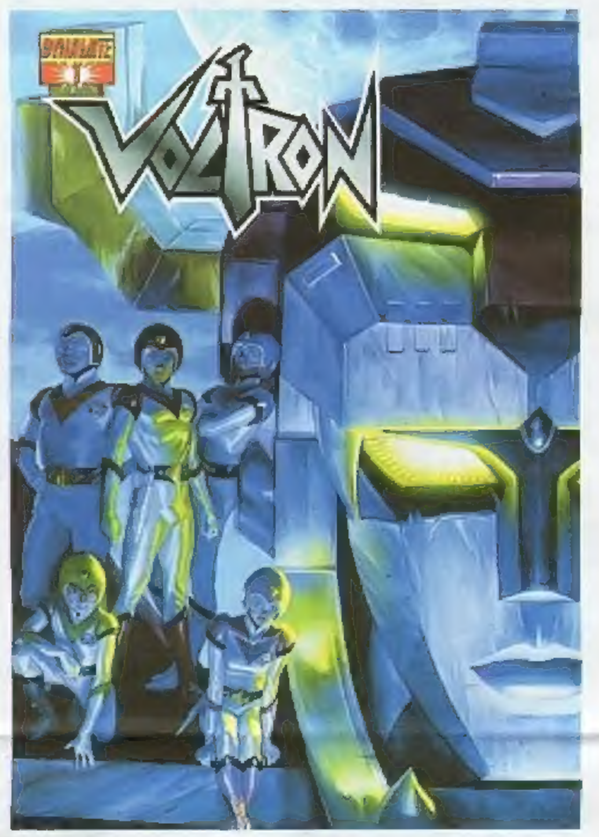
John Barber & James Roberts (W); Nick Roche (A)
(IDW OCT110326 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Is it true? Has ***Chaos*** claimed Optimus Prime? Or is there a new direction in store for the Autobot leader?

Why Should You Care?

IDW lays the groundwork for 2012 here—but are the Transformers ready for a world without Optimus Prime?



VOLTRON #1

Brandon Thomas (W); Ariel Padilla (A)
(Dynamite OCT110972 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

King Zarkon's brutal regime has been pushed to the edges of the galaxy, left to wage a series of desperate and losing battles to claim innocent victims while they still can. But Zarkon knows something---a secret about Voltron over a hundred years old that could change everything for the Galaxy Alliance...

Why Should You Care?

Brandon Thomas sets out to do for ***Voltron*** what *J.J.Abrams* did for ***Star Trek:*** make it fresh and exciting for a new generation of readers while acknowledging the elements and history that made it so appealing for its original fanbase.

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Collected Cool: December's Best Reprint Volumes

ABSOLUTE PROMETHEA HC VOL 3

(DC JAN110419 $99.99)

The final ***Promethea*** Absolute volume collects #s 24-32 in an oversized slipcased edition.

BEFORE THE INCAL CLASSIC COLLECTION DELUXE HC

(Humanoids OCT111137 $99.95)

The prequel to Moebius and Jodorowsky's masterpiece, this story cycle recounts the youth of John Difool and the adventures that led to his first encounter with the Incal.

BONE ONE VOLUME COLOR 20TH ANNIVERSARY SLIPCASED ED

(Cartoon SEP110961 $150.00)

Couldn't afford the super-deluxe boxed set last summer? This edition is almost as good: it presents *Jeff Smith's* entire ***Bone*** series in full-color, and includes an illustrated slipcase, sans the extra bells and whistles (and for a *lot* less cash!).

CHASE TP

(DC SEP110179 $29.99)

This hefty trade paperback collects the cult-favorite 1990s series chronicling the adventures of an agent of the Department of Extranormal Operations from the 1990s—and it reminds us just how talented artist *J.H. Williams III* is, was, and apparently always has been!

ESSENTIAL RAWHIDE KID TP VOL 1

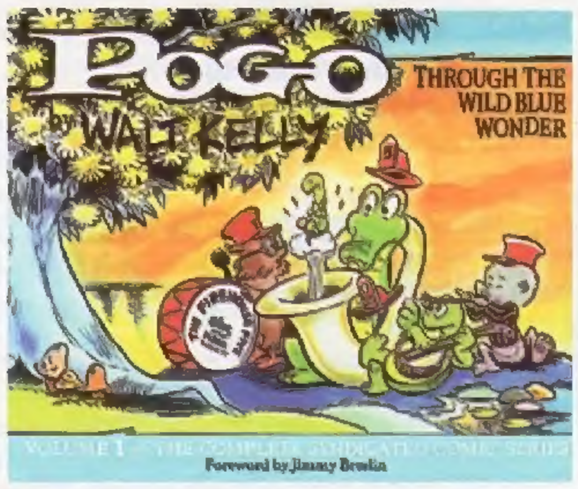
(Marvel OCT110742 $19.99)

Before *Stan Lee & Jack Kirby* introduced the world to the Fantastic Four, they reinvented Marvel's Western hero the Rawhide Kid. This volume reprints those early 1960s issues, featuring work by Lee, Kirby, *Jack Davis,* and many others.

FATHOM ULTIMATE EDITION SLIPCASE HC

(Aspen OCT110834 $99.99)

Michael Turner's undersea heroine gets the deluxe treatment in this slipcased hardcover that collects ***Fathom Preview, #s 0, 1/2, & 1-11,*** plus special pages, excerpts from #s 12-14 and much more.



POGO COMPLETE SYNDICATED STRIPS HC VOL 1: WILD WONDER

(Fantagraphics JUL111086 $39.99)

Fantagraphics kicks off their twelve volume series collecting *Walt Kelly's* classic strip with a hardcover compiling the first two years of dailies and full-color Sundays.

SHOWCASE PRESENTS BATMAN TP VOL 5

(DC AUG110253 $19.99)

The latest black-and-white ***Batman*** compendium includes stories from ***Detective #s 391-407*** and ***Batman #s 216-228***—and there's a lot of really stunning *Neal Adams* artwork in those issues!

SHOWCASE PRESENTS WONDER WOMAN TP VOL 4

(DC SEP110192 $19.99)

The final *Robert Kanigher-Ross Andru-Mike Esposito* Silver Age issues are included in this collection of ***Wonder Woman #s 157-177.***

STEVE DITKO OMNIBUS HC VOL 2

(DC AUG110256 $59.99)

Steve Ditko did a lot more than ***Hawk and Dove,Creeper,*** and ***Shade*** for DC, as this volume reminds us. This 384-page hardcover includes stories from ***Man-Bat, Detective, Adventure, Legion of Super-Heroes,*** and much more.

YOUNG ROMANCE: SIMON & KIRBY 1940-1950 HC

(Fantagraphics OCT111099 $29.99)

A true labor of love, this volume presents 21 classic Simon & Kirby stories in full color, amazingly restored by Michael Gagne. (See the article on page 2 of this issue of *CSN* for more info about Gagne's stunning restoration work.)

FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

ANNOTATED SANDMAN HC VOL 1

(Vertigo/DC AUG110277 $49.99)

Why produce a separate book of commentary and annotations when you can combine it with the comics? DC's first-ever annotated volume includes ***Sandman #1-20*** side-by-side with commentary by *Leslie Klinger,* including historical and contemporary references, hidden meanings, and more.

ART OF HOWARD CHAYKIN HC

(Dynamite OCT111038 $29.99)

Dynamite's overview of *Howard Chaykin's* four-decade-plus career includes commentary from Chaykin's friends and colleagues and an extensive selection of artwork from throughout his career, including many never-before-published pieces.

GRANT MORRISON: COMBINING WORLDS OF CONTEMPORARY COMICS SC

(University Press of Mississippi OCT111326 $25.00)

Author *Marc Singer* examines how *Grant Morrison* uses a fusion of styles to explore the major political, aesthetic, and intellectual challenges of our time. Yeah, it sounds a little obfuscatory, but the idea of critical analyses of Morrison's body of work is too appealing to pass up!

HERGE: SON OF TINTIN HC

(Johns Hopkins OCT111330 $29.95)

This insightful biography delves deep into the psyche of Tintin creator *Georges Remi* and his public persona Herge.

HOGAN'S ALLEY #18

(Hogan's Alley OCT111331 $6.95)

Cathy creator *Cathy Guisewite,* one of the most underrated comic strip creators of the past two decades, is the focus of a lengthy interview/article in the latest issue of this always-fascinating magazine.

MODERN MASTERS SC VOL 27: RON GARNEY

(TwoMorrows OCT111232 $15.95)

This book by authors *George Khoury & Eric Nolen-Weathington* features an exhaustive interview with Garney along with a wealth of rare and unseen art, including a gallery of commissioned pieces, many in full-color.

Hot Commodities: December's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

BATMAN YEAR ONE DVD BATMAN MAQUETTE

(DC Direct JUL110307 $125.00)

Derek Miller supplies the sculpt for this hand-painted, cold-cast porcelain maquette based on art from the Warner Home Video made-for-DVD animated original movie ***Batman: Year One.***

CATWOMAN 1/4 SCALE MUSEUM QUALITY STATUE

(DC Direct MAY110306 $325.00)

Karen Palinko does the sculpting honors on this striking 1/4 scale mixed-media statue that includes an exquisitely tailored and detailed costume capturing Selina Kyle in his feline glory.

GLADIATOR (DAREDEVIL VERSION) STATUE

(Bowen AUG111821 $240.00)

No one captures the majesty and power of classic Marvel characters like the talents at Bowen Designs—and the *Kucharek Brothers* pull out all the stops with this imposing sculpture of Daredevil's buzz-saw-blade-wielding villain.

Check 'Em Out: Books You Should Be Reading

ALL STAR WESTERN #4

(DC OCT110226 $3.99)

The trail of a missing child from a wealthy family leads Jonah Hex and Amadeus Arkham into the watery catacombs of Gotham City's still-under-construction sewer system in the latest issue of what just might be the best Batman-family book in the New 52!

AMERICAN VAMPIRE #22

(Vertigo/DC OCT110281 $2.99)

Who is Travis Kidd? What do the mysterious Vassals want with him? And what does it all have to do with Skinner Sweet? Find out in 'Death Race' part 1, the kickoff of a 1950s-era story arc.

I MUST KNOW—WHAT MADE YOU SUSPECT ME?
YOU INSISTED I WAS INNOCENT DESPITE ALL THE EVIDENCE AGAINST ME!
AND WHEN SOMETHING SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE—
—IT USUALLY ISN'T!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 11-12
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Follow *Spider-Man* every week in *Comic Shop News*!

COLD WAR #3

(IDW OCT110368 $3.99)

Part James Bond, part ***Mad Men***—*John Byrne* takes readers back to the Cold-War era in his fast-paced period piece spy drama pitting an MI6 agent against Soviet efforts to gain nuclear domination.

FABLES #112

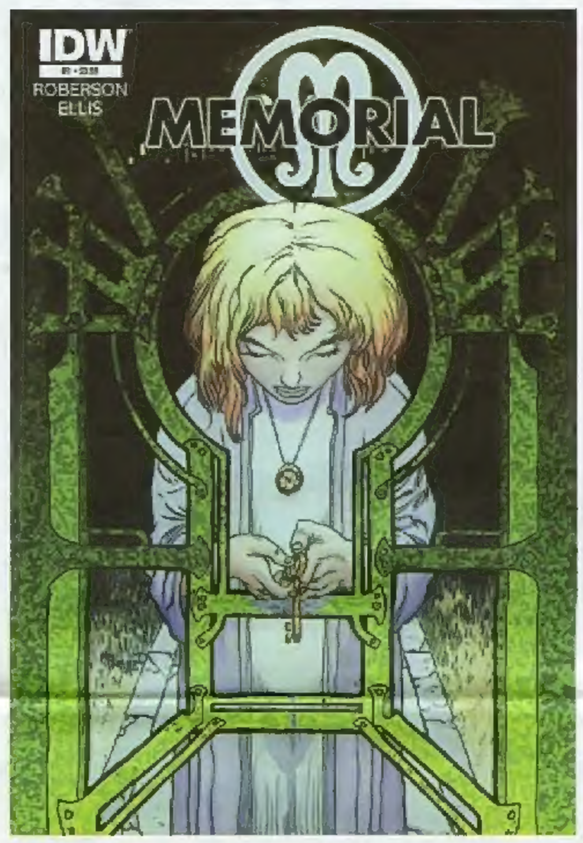
(Vertigo/DC OCT110293 $3.99)

Bill Willingham offers a glimpse into the future fates of Rose Red in this extra-length issue of the series that ***Once Upon a Time*** should have adapted rather than ripping off...

GRIMM FAIRY TALES: ALICE IN WONDERLAND #1

(Zenescope OCT111280 $2.99)

Alice has never experienced a world more surreal than this! *Raven Gregory, Ralph Tedesco,* and *Joe Brusha* follow Alice down the rabbit hole into an unprecedented world of madness .



MEMORIAL #1 (OF 6)

(IDW OCT110339 $3.99)

A mysterious young woman inherits a magical shop—the sort of shop that appears in an alley one moment and disappears the next—in this Vertigoesque supernatural fantasy from *Chris Roberson* & *Rich Ellis*. (And if that's not enough to hook you, howsabout this: it's got a talking cat!)

RICHIE RICH GEMS #45

(Ape OCT110790 $3.99)

RICHIE RICH GEMS WINTER SPECIAL

(Ape OCT110791 $3.99)

The new, revamped Richie Rich may be updated for the 21st Century, but it just doesn't have the charm of the classic "poor little rich kid." Even better, the classic reprints are accompanied by original material from *Sid Jacobson & Ernie Colon!*

STAR TREK/LEGION OF SUPERHEROES #3 (OF 6)

(IDW OCT110363 $3.99)

It's that *Chris Roberson* guy again, with another must-read series. This delightful blend of two fictional realities is one of the most faithful intercompany crossovers ever produced—***Star Trek*** fans and ***Legion*** fans will both be happy with how well their characters are presented.

THE GUILD: ZABOO #1

(Dark Horse OCT110037 $3.50)

Okay, ***Guild*** fans—*Felicia Day* is back with another oneshot, this one focusing on Zaboo, who sets out on a real-life quest to escape his mother and become her knight in shining armor.

WITCH DOCTOR: RESUSCITATION

(Image OCT110447 $2.99)

The edgy medical horror hit returns with a tale of black magic and organ-swapping. If you haven't discovered the twisted world of *Brandon Seifert & Lukas Ketner's* story of a doctor who specializes in some *very* unusual medicine, then this oneshot is for you! (And if you have, you *already* know that it's a must-read.)

X-MEN LEGACY #260

(Marvel OCT110674 $2.99)

Mike Carey wraps up his five-year run with a story that marks the end of an era! The X-Men are divided. Magneto has chosen to stay with Cyclops on Utopia. Gambit has chosen to follow Wolverine to Westchester. And now Rogue must decide who she is going to follow.

A NEW ERA BEGINS FOR

THE LONE RANGER®

THE LONE RANGER #1: HARD COUNTRY

WRITTEN BY ANDE PARKS ART BY ESTEVE POLLS

COVERS BY ALEX ROSS & FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA

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THE LIGHT OF VENGEANCE BURNS!

THE

A 4-Issue Limited Series

Written by

JIMMY PALMIOTTI & JUSTIN GRAY

Art by

JAMAL IGLE

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December 2011

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